

By: Representative Fleming

To: Public Health and Human Services; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 43

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF  
2 MEDICAL ERRORS ON THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND TO  
3 MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREON TO THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED  
4 PURPOSES.

5 WHEREAS, ninety-eight thousand (98,000) Americans die each  
6 year as a result of preventable medical errors; and

7 WHEREAS, the cost in lost income, disability and health care  
8 costs is as much as Twenty-nine Billion Dollars  
9 (\$29,000,000,000.00) annually; and

10 WHEREAS, more than twenty (20) states have laws or  
11 regulations regarding medical errors; and

12 WHEREAS, the Democratic and Republican parties have included  
13 reducing medical errors on their agenda as a priority; NOW,  
14 THEREFORE,

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

16 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created a task force to study the  
17 impact of medical errors on the citizens of the State of  
18 Mississippi. The task force shall make a report of its findings  
19 and recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2004,  
20 including any recommended legislation.

21 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following eight  
22 (8) members:

23 (a) One (1) representative from each of the four (4)  
24 congressional districts to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
25 House for a total of four (4) representatives;

26 (b) One (1) senator from each of the four (4)  
27 congressional districts to be appointed by the Lieutenant  
28 Governor, for a total of four (4) senators.

29           (3) Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after  
30 the effective date of this act, and, within fifteen (15) days  
31 thereafter on a day to be designated jointly by the Speaker of the  
32 House and the Lieutenant Governor, the task force shall meet and  
33 organize.

34           (4) The task force shall study and make recommendations  
35 regarding the impact of medical errors on the citizens of the  
36 State of Mississippi.

37           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
38 and after July 1, 2004.